

Date: 4th October 2022

Dear parent/ carer,

We have had a wonderful return to school after the summer holiday. Our students have looked really smart, have engaged in their education and embraced wider school life. Thank you for support in assisting with making this happen.

We do however have some challenges with attendance at Educational Diversity. In this letter I would like to appeal to parents and carers to work with us in ensuring that their child attends school on a regular basis.

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

Why is attendance so important for our children?

Nowadays it is more important than ever to have good education behind you to secure opportunities in adult life. Your child's chances of a successful may be affected by not attending school. If they do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work.
- Miss out on the social side of school life.

Setting good attendance patterns forms from a young age and impacts us throughout our lives. Employers want to recruit people who are reliable. So children who have a poor attendance record may have less chance of getting a good job.

Being on time is also vital. Arriving at school can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher and the other children in the class.



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Tel: 01253 476691 - KS4

Educational Diversity
The Willows
10 Clifton Avenue
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FY4 4RF
Tel: 01253 476661

Headteacher - Victoria O'Farrell



What might the impact of poor attendance be on your child?

Research has shown that children who are not in school are most vulnerable and easily drawn into crime. Those who play truant are most likely to offend than those that do not. Research also shows that:

- Less than 40% of pupils in secondary schools with an average of 17 days or more absence get good grades in their GCSEs and Functional Skills. Compared to more than 90% in schools with an average of less than 8 days absence.



What does the law say?

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must attend school. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure this happens.

Once a child is registered at our school, you are responsible for making sure they attend regularly.

If your child fails to attend regularly – even if they miss school without you knowing – the Local Authority (LA) may take legal action against you.

The LA is responsible for making sure that parents fulfil their responsibilities.

If you think that you may need to take your child out of school, discuss the reasons with your child's Lead Teacher as soon as possible.

Reasons such as family bereavement or taking part in religious observance would be acceptable for short absences. Unacceptable reason for missing school include shopping and birthdays.



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What happens if your child does not attend school regularly?

If your child does not regularly attend school, you run the risk of being issued with a penalty notice or being taken to court. The Local Authority may decide to prosecute a parent if this happens:

- Parents can be fined up to £2500 or imprisoned for failing to ensure that their child attends school regularly.
- Magistrates can also impose a Parenting Order, which means that the parent has to attend a counselling and guidance programme, usually a parenting class.

What about authorised absences?

There may be times when your child has to miss school because they are ill. This is to be expected and for the odd day off sick you should follow the school's procedures for notifying illness. Children may also have to attend a medical or dental appointment in school time. However, you should try to make routine appointments such as dental check-ups during the school holidays or after school hours. Any absence must be requested as far in advance as possible. Absences can only be authorised by school.

What can you do to help?

- If you suspect that your child may be missing school or is unhappy at school, you should contact the school as soon as possible so that you can work with them to resolve any difficulties.
- Make sure that your child understands that you do not approve of them missing school, but be on the alert for any particular reasons for non-attendance, such as bullying or problems with school work and discuss these with the school.
- If your child is ill or absent for any reason, contact the school on the first day of absence.
- Take an interest in your child's education. Ask them about their day and praise and encourage their achievements at school.
- Co-operate with any support, such as School Home Support

I truly believe that we can work together to improve our whole school attendance and even more importantly individual children's attendance and successful futures. Please do not hesitate to contact school for clarification and/or help with your child's attendance.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria O'Farrell
Headteacher



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